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Tribute to Julian Conrad Juergensmeyer by Jim Bross

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TRIBUTE TO JULIAN CONRAD JUERGENSMEYER

Jim Bross¹

In 1972, I started teaching Land Use at Lewis & Clark Law School because I had once represented the Dunlap Community in Philadelphia in community development problems and because somebody had to do it. For something learned in my studies, I drew on Geoff Lanning's Federal Taxation course, where I studied the relationship of legislative policy and administrative practice for the first and only time in law school. I viewed Land Use Law as a peculiar subspecies of administrative law with vaguely aspirational legislative mandates and strikingly unqualified decision makers.

When I searched for useful library resources, I found the collected works of law professors who had studied at Wisconsin with Jacob Beuscher. I read and used casebooks and hornbooks by Dan Mandelker and Don Hagman, who were generous, kind and good-humored mentors. Because Don was on the left end of the country at UCLA, I convinced him to teach a summer class at Lewis & Clark so that I could pick his brain and absorb his anecdotes as fodder for my courses.

Like everyone in legal education, I was stunned when Don Hagman died in a fall at Yosemite during a camping trip with his family. Selfishly, I worried about the loss of Don as personal mentor and author of the books my students and I needed. I was again startled when an upstart Duke alum teaching at Florida presumed to take over Don's hornbook. Sceptically, I examined Julian Juergensmeyer's new edition of the hornbook. Some of Don's idiosyncratic whimsy was gone, but the book was potentially more helpful to law students without the old quirks. Moreover, new voice in the book had its own light humor.

Twenty years later, Eric Segall was leading Georgia State's search for candidates to fill the law school's first chair. He asked me what I thought of someone named Juergensmeyer. I instantly said, "Grab him!" It was one of the best gut reactions I have ever had—so much for planning. The chair has been occupied by someone who gave me 20 years of collegiality and the law school instant credibility in innovative programs. Thanks, Dr. J.

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